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that people of our day will soon give up on “faith healers” and “healing ministries,” and put their faith and trust in God.

### What About You?

We are sure this tract will sound quite harsh to some. It has been prepared out of love for the souls of men. We are tired of seeing “faith healers” take advantage of good people. They claim the power is not in them but God. However, we deny God uses these men to fulfill His will today. The age of spiritual gifts passed with the completion of the New Testament (1 Cor 13:8–10). God will allow people to “believe a lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thess 2:11–12).

### Our Proposition

We are not ashamed of the truth. We are willing to defend what we teach in public. Is your preacher? Ask him or her if they are willing to engage in a four-night public debate on spiritual gifts. We are willing to discuss and defend the following proposition:

“The Scriptures teach that the Holy Spirit baptism of Acts two and the signs and miracles of the New Testament, especially as mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12, have ceased.”

If we are false teachers, we need to be publicly exposed. The God whom we serve does not want preachers to hide behind a pulpit. The apostle Paul was set “for the defense of the gospel” (Phil 1:17). We have put on the gospel armor and are ready to “stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph 6:11). Is your preacher willing to defend his beliefs in a public discussion, or is he too busy planning the next church social? 📖

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“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1)

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# The Truth About ~~Faith~~ Fake Healers



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# The Truth About Fake Healers

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Every generation has had to contend with flimflam men and con artists. A century ago, they came in the guise of rainmakers and snake oil salesmen. Today, this genre has found a home in charismatic churches.

One of the greatest stories of conversion in the book of Acts involved a shyster called Simon the sorcerer. Luke records his conversion with these words:

“But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the great power of God.” And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time. But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.” (Acts 8:9–13)

Before his conversion, Simon would have made an excellent Pentecostal preacher. He could have had his own YouTube channel and would have looked at home on a stage with Pentecostal stalwarts like Jimmy Swaggart, Oral Roberts, or Benny Hinn.

Simon the sorcerer had everything going for him. His credentials as a “faith healer” would have been impressive. Let’s notice a few things about his life.

## Great Claims

Acts 8:9 tells us Simon claimed that “he was someone great.” Every Pentecostal preacher I have ever met claimed some miraculous power. I’ve heard of folks in padded cells claiming to be Napoleon or Adolf Hitler. But these charismatic preachers claim to have a hot-line to the Almighty! Great claims mean absolutely nothing. Simon the sorcerer made extraordinary claims, but he was a fraud.

## Large Numbers

The residents of Samaria “all gave heed” to Simon (Acts 8:10). Preachers who command a large audience impress some folks. No doubt, they would have loved the prophets of Baal at Mt. Carmel (1 Kgs 18:19–20). Just because a preacher has a large following, it does not mean he is pleasing to God. Simon the sorcerer had a large following, but he was a thief!

## Influential Followers

Simon’s followers came from all classes, from “the least to the greatest” (Acts 8:10). Some people get excited when a famous politician or Hollywood star is a member of their church. While God is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34), some so-called Christians are. Simon had “great” people follow him, but he was a charlatan!

## Moving Testimonials

If you dared to question the claims of Simon, he would have supplied you with a list of

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folks willing to give personal testimony about his ability. The people of Samaria said, “This man is the great power of God” (Acts 8:10). Every Pentecostal church I have ever visited had several folks ready to give moving personal testimonies about some *alleged* miracle. Simon the sorcerer had many testimonials, but he was a flimflam man!

## Astonishing Feats

Simon was able to “astonish them with his sorceries” (Acts 8:11). Simon’s sleight of hand and Houdini-like powers amazed many individuals. Like modern charismatic preachers, Simon could probably cure everything from headaches to vertigo. Of course, Simon could not make the lame to walk or raise the dead like the apostles (Acts 3:6; 9:40), but neither can anyone today. The whole time Simon astonished the people, he was nothing but a fraud!

## Long Time Resident

Simon was not a newcomer to Samaria. He had been able to dupe the people “for a long time” (Acts 8:11). Some folks think longevity in a town is proof that God is with you. Some even brag that their church established the city. Well, Simon was a long-time resident of Samaria, but he was an impostor!

## His Conversion

We are grateful to God that when the people of Samaria “believed Philip as he preached the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ... Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done” (Acts 8:12–13). When Simon saw the genuine power of God, he, along with many others, gave up his religious scam. I pray to God

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